

A. Weaver  
976 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
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March 15, 2001

Re: Docket # OON-1396 / OOD-1598

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Dear FDA Commissioner,

As a scientist (PhD, Chemistry) and consumer, I am appalled by the extremely rapid expansion of genetically engineered (GE) and genetically modified (GM) foods and other products that enter the food production stream.

- 1.) It is extremely important that GE/GM foods be labelled, so that the consumer may make an informed choice. In particular, with the advent of new livestock disease problems, we are particularly concerned about the use of animal products in engineering plant products. Clear and complete labelling should be mandatory.
- 2) Since environmental/systemic problems associated with GE/GM foods may not become evident for many years, and complete epidemiological studies will be necessary, the introduction of such foods/organisms should be delayed and widespread use should be slowed down. I see an alarming and rapid increase in the use of these products.

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OOD-1598 As a scientist, I am well aware of the difference between "shown to have no effect" ~~and~~ in the lab/field test, vs. the long-term results that actual use

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can produce. You may remember that in the 1970's, the idea that CFCs could harm the environment was dismissed - there was no scientific evidence to prove they could. Thirty years later, we are dealing with the ozone hole as a result of the too-rapid introduction and proliferation of these and ~~a~~ similar substances.

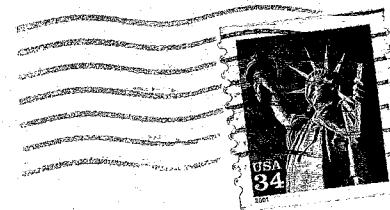
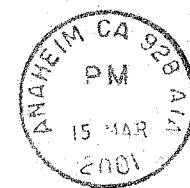
3) Ideally, I would call for a moratorium on GE foods. The US population, although remarkably well nourished, is experiencing an alarming increase in allergies, mental illness (including depression) and immune system dysfunction. We do not yet understand the causes of these changes, or the potential links to environmental factors. To introduce another potentially powerful risk factor is irresponsible and driven by corporate profit-making agendas. It is difficult to argue that we as human beings stand to gain much - but we may lose a great deal.

Yours truly,

Alexandra Weaver



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Re: Petition 98P-0151/CP1  
FDA/Dockets Management Branch  
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